

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05667 241743Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 L-03 HA-05 CA-01 IO-13 SCS-06 CPR-01
/079 W

-----122373 250549Z /14

R 241735Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9543
INFO DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 05667

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OTRA, UR, US, TIPT, CSCE
SUBJECT: CHANGING SOVIET REACTION TO WESTERN TRAVEL

1. AS WE HAVE REPORTED FROM TIME TO TIME, WE ARE NOT
ESPECIALLY IMPRESSED WITH THE "CHANGES" IN SOVIET TRAVEL
REGULATIONS PROMULGATED 4 JANUARY 1978. IN FACT, WE HAVE
HAD NUMEROUS PROBLEMS TRYING TO EXPLORE THIS NEW TERRITORY.

2. MEANWHILE THE SOVIETS LATELY SEEM TO BE MORE OBSTRUC-
TIVE THAN USUAL TOWARD OUR EFFORTS TO TRAVEL AND TO DO OUR
JOB WHEN IT TAKES US OUTSIDE THE EMBASSY. FOR EXAMPLE,
DAO TRAVELLERS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN DENIED TRAVEL TO BIYSK,
VOLGOGRAD AND TIKSI OR ANY OTHER PORT ALONG THE NORTHERN
SEA ROUTE. WITHOUT WARNING, TWO ATTACHES WERE FORBIDDEN
TO BOARD A TRAIN SCHEDULED TO TAKE THEM FROM KIEV TO
KOROSTEN. LAST WEEK, TWO DAO TRAVELLERS ENROUTE BY ROAD
FROM KHARKOV TO ROSTOV WERE DENIED ENTRY AT THE CITY LIMITS
INTO CHUGUYEV, AND OPEN CITY WHICH HAS BEEN VISITED IN THE
PAST, EVEN THOUGH IT HAD BEEN INCLUDED ON THE SOVIET-
APPROVED TRAVEL NOTE. THEREAFTER, THEY GAINED ENTRANCE TO
SLAVYANSK ONLY BY ADAMANT ARGUMENT WITH THE POLICEMAN
POSTED TO STOP THEM. SIGNIFICANTLY, OUR BRITISH AND
CANADIAN MILATT COLLEAGUES HAVE REPORTED RECENT SIMILAR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 05667 241743Z

EXPERIENCES.

3. ANOTHER EVEN MORE TROUBLING DEVELOPMENT PARALLELS THE
INTRANSIGENCE DESCRIBED ABOVE, THAT IS, AN INCREASE IN
SURVEILLANCE AND/OR HARRASSMENT OF EMBASSY OFFICERS BY
SOVIET AUTHORITIES. VARIOUS OFFICERS HAVE NOTED AN IN-
CREASE IN QUANTITY AND INTENSITY OF SURVEILLANCE

ENCOUNTERED HERE IN MOSCOW AND, AS HAS BEEN REPORTED, OFFICERS IN MOSCOW AND LENINGRAD HAVE BEEN HARRASSED RATHER FREQUENTLY WITH FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY. DAO TRAVELLERS HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO A GREAT DEAL MORE PHOTOGRAPHIC AND/OR POLICE ATTENTION OF LATE IN SUCH PLACES AS GOMEL, KHARKOV, LENINGRAD, PUSHKIN, ROSTOV AND SIMFEROPOL. THE KHARKOV TO ROSTOV TRIP, MENTIONED ABOVE, SAW THE TRAVELLERS STOPPED EIGHT TIMES IN 24 HOURS BY THE POLICE FOR VARIOUS FLIMSY REASONS; THIS IS UNPRECEDENTED IN RECENT MEMORY. IN PUSHKIN, TRAVELLERS WERE STOPPED TWICE IN 30 MINUTES AND DENIED ACCESS TO CENTRAL PARKS BY THE POLICE. ADDITIONALLY, THREE BRITISH MILITARY ATTACHES RECENTLY HAVE BEEN CONFRONTED BY KGB OFFICERS, IN KHARKOV AND RIGA, WHO TOLD THEM IN EFFECT TO BE NICE, LOOK ONLY AT THE TOURIST ATTRACTIONS, AND THERE WOULD NOT BE ANY TROUBLE. AGAIN, THIS IS HIGHLY UNUSUAL IN OUR EXPERIENCE. TO SAY THE LEAST, THESE TACTICS HAVE A CHILLING EFFECT ON THE OFFICER AS HE WONDERS WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT.

4. OVERALL, WE ARE FORCED TO CONCLUDE THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT EXTENDED THEMSELVES AT ALL WITH THE NEW TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AND, MOREOVER, THEY APPEAR TO SOME DEGREE TO BE ATTEMPTING TO CURTAIL WESTERNERS' MOVEMENT AND/OR REDUCE THEIR EFFECTIVENESS. TOON.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW05667
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780332-0371, D780131-0874
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780328/aaaaaxoz.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 63f137be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3212571
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHANGING SOVIET REACTION TO WESTERN TRAVEL
TAGS: OTRA, UR, US, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/63f137be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014